Book Review: Proceedings of The Southeast Asian Coal Geology Conference

The material contained in this proceedings consists of papers which were presented at the Southeast Asian Coal Geology Conference, held in Bandung, Indonesia, on June 19-20, 2000. This conference was hosted by directorate General of Geology and Mineral Resources, Department of Mines and Energy of the Republic of Indonesia in association with Indonesian Association of Geologist and Departments of Geology and Mining, Institute of Technology, Bandung.

Various paper from various countries highlighted coal geological aspects related to exploration case studies, geological influence on rank, coal as oil source rock, coal bed methane, tectonic/structural setting of coal deposits, coal quality modeling, resource estimates, modern analogues studies, sedimentological control on coal distribution, coal petrology and palynology, coal characterization and utilization, coal geology and the environment.

There are five papers in the Modern Analogue Studies and Sedimentology group, titled:

1. A deposistional model for mangrove-derived coals in NW Borneo by J. J. Lambiase, A. R. Damit & M. D. Simmons. This article is based on an observation on a small modern delta in NW Borneo. The study came up with three stage model ofor deposition of mangrove coals in NW Borneo (Fig. 1).

2. A sequence stratigraphic framework of late Permian carbonate coal measures in Southern China by L. Shao, L. Hao, J. Chen, X. Xie, and P. Zhang. This paper shows how sea level changes and accommodation space control the coal accumulation. Shao et al. conclude that in carbonate setting, thickest coals tend to form at the transgressive surface and the thinnest coals tend to form at the maximum flooding surface. This is because the equilibrium between rates of generation of accommodation space and rates of peat accumulation is usually better achieved at the transgressive surface than at maximum flooding surface.

3. Sedimentology and exploration potential of the coal rich Silimpopon syncline, South Sabah, Malaysia by N. Suwarna and Suminto. Detail provenance study base on petrographic analysis and VR studies are included in this paper.

4. Sedimentology and hydrocarbon potential of the Permian Mengkarang formation, Southern Sumatera by S. H. Tahir and H. Benedict.

5. Aspects of the nature and depositional environment of the Curlew formation, the Narrows Graben, Australia by L. Coshell, G. J. Pope, D. A. Dixon, R. G. McIver, and Hadiyanto.

Other articles that may gain some interests from the sedimentologists are:

- Tectono-stratigraphic framework of Tertiary coal deposits of Indonesia, by R. P. Koesoemadinata, as one of the key note speaker. In summary, Koesoemadinata mentioned that
  - Tertiary coals are minly found in Teritary basinhs of western Indonesia, related to the Asian continental crust of the Sunda shield, except of few Pre-Tertiary occurrences in Irian Jaya.
  - From tectono-stratigraphic point of view coal deposits in wester Indonesia occur in 1. Syn-rift deposits, 2. Postrift transgressive sequence, 3. Syn-orogenic regressive sequence. Paleogene coal occurs both as syn-rift anas well as post-rift transgressive deposit.
  - Tectono-stratigraphic framework of coal deposits tends to give a broad generalization concerning the quality and the seam characteristics of the coal. However, local geological conditions ultimately control seam characteristics quality.
- Coal in Tertiary rift systems in Southeast Asia by M. C. Friederich, G. Liu, R. P. Langford, C. Nas, and B. Ratanasthien.
- Tertiary ecological history of Southeast Asian peat mires by R. J. Morley

Limited number of the proceedings was published with 343 pages and a total of 53 extended abstracts.